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AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 060532

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IT, YO

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES ZONE B ISSUE WITH
ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY STABLER

REF: BELGRADE 1360

1. SUMMARY: IN MARCH 25 CALL ON ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY STABLER (EUR) YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR GRANFIL ON INSTRUCTIONS READ STATEMENT OUTLINING GOY VIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON TRIESTE ZONE B ISSUE. STATEMENT DESCRIBED GOI MARCH 11 NOTE AS OPEN ATTACK ON YUGOSLAVIA'S SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY WHICH UNDERCUTS EFFORTS OF EUROPEAN PEOPLES TO BUILD A HEALTHIER STRUCTURE OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN EUROPE. GOY, HE SAID, CANNOT NOW ACCEPT ANY GOI DECLARATION OF GOODWILL UNLESS GOI RECOGNIZES

YUGOSLAV SOVEREIGNTY OVER ZONE B. GRANFIL EMPHASIZED GOY
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WAS NOT RPT NOT REQUESTING US SUPPORT OR INTERVENTION

BUT RATHER INFORMING USG OF YUGOSLAV POSITION. STABLER EXPRESSED US REGRET THAT TWO FRIENDLY COUNTRIES SHOULD FIND THEMSELVES IN SUCH A DISPUTE AND VOICED HOPE THAT GOI AND GOY COULD RESOLVE IT AMICABLY THROUGH MEDIUM OF PRIVATE CONTACTS. END SUMMARY.

2. GRANFIL OPENED DISCUSSION WITH STATEMENT THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO INFORM USG OF GOY VIEWS ABOUT A QUOTE VERY VITAL UNQUOTE PROBLEM FOR YUGOSLAVIA, NAMELY THE ISSUE OF YUGOSLAVIA'S COMMON BORDER WITH ITALY. GRANFIL THEN READ FOLLOWING STATEMENT: QUOTE ON MARCH 11, 1974 GOI SUBMITTED TO US A VERBAL NOTE ASSERTING AMONG OTHER THINGS THAT YUGOSLAV SOVEREIGNTY HAD NEVER BEEN EXTENDED TO THE ITALIAN TERRITORY MARKED AS ZONE B OF THE UNATTAINED FREE TERRITORY OF TRIESTE. THE ITALIAN NOTE CALLING YUGOSLAV TERRITORY ITALIAN CANNOT BUT BE TAKEN AS AN OPEN ATTACK ON THE SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE SFRY. WE DO CONSIDER THAT IT IS SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR AND WELL KNOWN THAT BY SIGNING THE LONDON AGREEMENT (SIC) OF 1954 YUGOSLAVIA MADE ENORMOUS SACRIFICES IN THE INTEREST OF PEACE IN THAT PART OF EUROPE, STRIVING AT THE SAME TIME TO OVERCOME THE CONSEQUENCES OF WW II IN WHICH PART OF OUR TERRITORY WAS OCCUPIED BY FACIST ITALY, IN ORDER TO ENHANCE AND BRING ABOUT A CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT OF UNDERSTANDING AND TO WORK UPON GOOD NEIGHBORLY COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WITH THAT IN MIND, THE GOY IS OF THE OPINION THAT BY THIS KIND OF ACTION ITALY IS THREATENING ALL THE RESULTS REACHED IN THE PAST 20 YEARS THROUGH COMMON EFFORTS DIRECTED TOWARD DEVELOPING COOPERATION AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. AT THE SAME TIME, THE ITALIAN MOVE UNDERCUTS THE BASIC EFFORT OF EUROPEAN PEOPLES AND GOVERNMENTS DIRECTED TOWARD BUILDING A HEALTHIER STRUCTURE OF PEACE AND SECURITY

IN AND WITH EUROPE. IN HER VERBAL NOTE OF MARCH 15, 1974 THE GOY LODGED A SHARP AND RESOLUTE PROTEST WITH THE GOI OVER THE POSITIONS THE GOI TOOK IN ITS NOTE OF

MARCH 11. THE GOY EMPHASIZED IN REGARD TO THIS ITALIAN
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ACTION THAT THE PEOPLES OF YUGOSLAVIA WILL RESOLUTELY CONTINUE TO REPULSE ANY ATTEMPTS DIRECTED TOWARD THREATENING THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SOVEREIGNTY OF THE SFRY. THE YUGOSLAV PEOPLES WILL KNOW HOW TO DEFEND THEIR TERRITORY IN THE FUTURE AS THEY DID AND COULD IN THE PAST, AND THEREFORE EVERYONE, NOT ONLY ITALY, MUST DISCARD ALL ILLUSIONS THAT THE EXISTING SITUATION COULD BE CHANGED. END QUOTE.

3. AFTER READING STATEMENT, GRANFIL SAID HE WAS INSTRUCTED TO INFORM USG, AS SIGNATORY TO LONDON AGREEMENT, OF GOY POSITION. HE STRESSED THAT GOY WAS NOT RPT NOT ASKING FOR ANY SPECIAL SUPPORT FROM THE

US, MUCH LESS INTERVENTION. GOY WAS APPROACHING US BECAUSE US WAS SIGNATORY TO MEMORANDUM AND BECAUSE US, UK AND FRANCE (SIC) HAD TAKEN THE POSITION (SINCE 1954) QUOTE THERE COULD BE NO RPT NO TERRITORIAL CHANGES UNQUOTE IN THIS AREA.

4. GRANFIL CLAIMED GOY WAS VERY SURPRISED AT CONTENTS OF GOY MARCH 11 NOTE, GIVEN THE MANY ASSURANCES IT HAD RECEIVED FROM ITALIANS THAT THEY POSED NO THREAT TO YUGOSLAVIA'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. HE OBSERVED IN PASSING THAT AN AGREEMENT SIGNED IN 1957 FIXED THE BORDERS BETWEEN ZONES A AND B QUOTE IN GREAT DETAIL END QUOTE. GOY HAD ASKED THAT MARCH 11 NOTE BE FORMALLY REVOKED, BUT QUOTE ORIGINAL VERSION WAS REPEATEDLY PRESENTED TO US. END QUOTE SAID GRANFIL. GOY CANNOT NOW ACCEPT ANY GENERAL GOI DECLARATION OF GOOD WILL UNLESS GOI ALSO RECOGNIZES YUGOSLAV SOVEREIGNTY OVER ZONE B AND GIVES UP ANY AMBITIOUS REGARDING IT. IN SUPPORT OF GOY POSITION, GRANFIL CITED ITALIAN PEACE TREATY OF 1947, CLAIMING THAT IN IT ITALY HAD RECOGNIZED THAT HER SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE FREE TERRITORY OF TRIESTE HAD CEASED. HE ALSO CLAIMED YUGOSLAVIA HAD NOT (SINCE 1954) VOICED ANY ASPIRATIONS TO ZONE A. GRANFIL SUMMED UP THE PRESENT GOY POSITION BY STATING THAT GOY REGARDS THIS MATTER AS A POLITICAL QUESTION, NOT A JURIDICAL ONE.

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5. GRANFIL EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE RENEWED DISPUTE OVER ZONE B WOULD HAVE A VERY SERIOUS NEGATIVE IMPACT ON CSCE WHICH IS DESIGNED TO PROMOTE INCREASED SECURITY AND STABILITY IN EUROPE. HE TERMED THIS QUOTE UNFORTUNATE END QUOTE. GRANFIL ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT PRESENT ITALIAN ACTION COULD CREATE AN UNFAVORABLE ATMOSPHERE IN YUGOSLAVIA WHICH COULD AFFECT QUOTE VERY FRUITFUL END QUOTE RELATIONS BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND ITALY INCLUDING MOVEMENT ACROSS THE ITALIAN-YUGOSLAV BORDER WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS ONE OF MOST OPEN IN EUROPE.

6. STABLER THANKED GRANFIL FOR HIS STATEMENT OF THE YUGOSLAV POSITION ON ZONE B ISSUE AND OBSERVED THAT US WOULD TAKE CAREFUL NOTE OF GOY'S VIEWS. US IS AWARE OF

GOY'S STATEMENTS ON THIS ISSUE IN CSCE AND ELSEWHERE JUST AS WE ARE AWARE OF STATEMENTS ISSUED BY GOI. US VERY MUCH REGRETS THAT TWO COUNTRIES WITH WHICH IT HAS FRIENDLY RELATIONS SHOULD FIND THEMSELVES IN SUCH A DISPUTE. WE HOPE YUGOSLAVIA AND ITALY CAN RESOLVE THIS MATTER IN A WAY WHICH WILL PROMOTE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE MUTUALLY PROFITABLE RELATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN

DEVELOPING IN THE COURSE OF THE LAST 20 YEARS, AND WHICH HAD BEEN EMPHASIZED BY PRESIDENT TITO'S VISIT TO ROME. STABLER ALSO VOICED THE HOPE THAT THE PUBLIC DISPUTE COULD BE CALMED AND THE MATTER RESOLVED THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF PRIVATE CONTACTS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES.

7. GRANFIL SAID HE WOULD CONVEY THESE VIEWS TO HIS GOVERNMENT. RUSH

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